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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,937	09/18/2003	Gunther Bellmann	P02428-C1	6818
23702	7590	08/26/2004	EXAMINER	
Bausch & Lomb Incorporated One Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, NY 14604-2701			FAY, ZOHREH A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1614	

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/665,937	BELLMANN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Zohreh Fay	1614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Claims 1-6 are presented for examination.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Mazuel et al. (U.S. Patent 4,861,760). Mazuel et al. Teach the use of dexamethasone sodium phosphate in combination with manitol, EDTA, benzalkonium chloride in a gel form for ophthalmic use. See pages 7 and 8.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mazuel et al. (U.S. Patent 4,861,760) and Rozier (U.S. Patent 5,304,559).

Mazuel et al. Teach the use of dexamethasone sodium phosphate in combination with manitol, EDTA and benzalkonium chloride in a gel form for ophthalmic use. See pages 7 and 8. Rozier teaches that the PH at the claimed range for ophthalmic composition as old. See page 4, paragraph 20, line 3. Rozier also teaches that the use of benzododecinium salt as a preservative in ophthalmic formulations as old. The primary reference differs from the claimed invention in indicating specific PH and the use of benzododecinium salt instead of benzalkonium salt as preservative. It would

have been obvious to a person skilled in the art to incorporate such teachings into the primary reference, considering that the secondary reference teaches that ophthalmic formulation have been previously used at the claimed range PH, and the use of a quaternary salt such as benzododecenium salt in ophthalmic field as old.

One skilled in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of the above references, since one relates to the use of dexamethasone sodium phosphate in combination with manitol, EDTA and benzalkonium chloride in an ophthalmic formulation, and the other relates to the use of the claimed PH and benzododecinium salt in ophthalmic formulations as old. The above references make clear that dexamethsone has been previously used in combination with manitol, EDTA and quaternary ammonium compounds . The above references also make clear that the use of the claimed PH in ophthalmic field as old. The substitution of benzododecinium for benzalkonium chloride would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art in the absence of evidence to the contrary. Applicant has presented no evidence to establish the unexpected or unobvious nature of the claimed invention, and as such, claims 5 and 6 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zohreh Fay whose telephone number is (571) 272-0573. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Low can be reached on (571) 272-0951. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Z.F

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Z.F." or "Z. F." in a cursive script.